

WHAT'S A MEDICAL HOME?

A medical home is not a building, house, or hospital, but rather an approach to providing health care services in a high-quality and cost-effective manner. Children and their families who have a medical home receive the care that they need from a pediatrician or physician (pediatric

health care professional) whom they trust. The pediatric health care professionals and parents act as partners in a medical home to identify and access all the medical and non-medical services needed to help children and their families achieve their maximum potential.

The American Academy of Pediatrics believes that all children should have a medical home where care is accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective.

ACCESSIBLE

- Care is provided in the child's community
- All insurance, including Medicaid, is accepted and changes are accommodated

FAMILY-CENTERED

- Recognition that the family is the principal caregiver and the center of strength and support for children
- Unbiased and complete information is shared on an ongoing basis

CONTINUOUS

- Same primary pediatric health care professionals are available from infancy through adolescence
- Assistance with transitions (to school, home, adult services) is provided

COMPREHENSIVE

- Health care is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Preventive, primary, and tertiary care needs are addressed

COORDINATED

- Families are linked to support, educational, and community-based services
- Information is centralized

COMPASSIONATE

- Concern for well-being of child and family is expressed and demonstrated

CULTURALLY EFFECTIVE

- Family's cultural background is recognized, valued, and respected

The ideal source of a child's medical home is a primary care pediatrician working in partnership with the child's parents. For children with special needs, it may be best for a pediatric subspecialist to coordinate care with the child's primary care pediatrician and parents to provide a medical home. For children who live in areas where it is not possible to meet with a pediatrician directly, the optimal medical home is provided by another pediatric health care professional who consults with a pediatrician as needed.

The goal of the National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs is to promote optimal care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN). Through the National Center, pediatricians, parents, administrators, and other health care professionals have access to educational and advocacy materials that address barriers to medical homes for CSHCN: recommendations that benefit CSHCN at the national, state, and local level; guidelines for care of CSHCN; evaluation tools that assess outcomes of providing a medical home to CSHCN; and a national technical assistance program to assist those who care for CSHCN. Please feel free to make copies of this fact sheet for non-commercial, educational purposes, giving credit as follows: This document was produced as an activity of the National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs, administered by the American Academy of Pediatrics with support from the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (1 H02 MC 00073).

American Academy
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DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



DIVISION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Activities of the Division of Children with Special Needs fulfill the goals of the "National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs," a cooperative agreement between the AAP and the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). The mission of the

National Center is to work in cooperation with federal agencies, particularly the MCHB, to ensure that children with special needs have access to a medical home. Through the National Center, pediatricians, parents, administrators, and other health care professionals have access to educational and

advocacy materials, guidelines for care, evaluation tools, and a national contact network.



ADVOCACY & POLICY

The National Center contributes to changes in and development of policies, reports, and advocacy materials that address medical homes for children with special needs. Advocacy and policy information is disseminated through the National Center to benefit children with special needs. For more information, contact Carlos Quezada-Gomez, PsyD at 847/434-7621, or email cquezadagomez@aap.org.

WEB SITE

Information about activities of the Division, as well as copies of many of the educational and advocacy materials produced under the National Center, is available through the AAP web site: www.aap.org. Click on "Community Pediatrics", then click "Children with Special Needs." If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list, send e-mail to medical_home@aap.org.

www.aap.org



FAMILY VOICES

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance is offered to anyone who is involved in ensuring children with special health care needs have access to a medical home. Examples of the type of technical assistance that is available are: facilitation of strategic planning meetings; identification of barriers & assistance in overcoming them; provision of educational materials, practice tools, and advocacy resources; identification of local, state, and national resources; dissemination of outcomes; and identification of national and state mentors. If you would like additional information on how to ensure children with special needs have a medical home, please contact Amy Gibson, MS, RN at 847/434-4989, or email agibson@aap.org.

TRAINING PROGRAM

The "Every Child Deserves a Medical Home" training program focuses on how to provide a medical home to children with special needs. The multi-component training program includes definitions of key concepts and practical strategies for implementing medical homes and can be customized to meet the needs of a specific audience, including information about local community and state resources. Anyone who is interested in implementing the training program locally will receive a master copy of the curriculum, PowerPoint slides, marketing materials, and technical assistance at no cost. For more information contact Bob Moore, MA at 847/434-4918, or email bmoore@aap.org

SCREENING INITIATIVES

The screening initiatives are focused on ensuring that all children receive early and continuous screening for special health care needs, and that these screening efforts are closely linked to the medical home. Current activities include development of: educational materials that promote universal newborn hearing screening; standards and tools that promote preschool vision screening; and recommendations to ensure that children who are identified with a metabolic or genetic disorder at birth are linked to a medical home. For more information contact Sunnah Kim, MS, RN at 847/434-4924, or email skim@aap.org.



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